

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figure(s) 3, 4, 5, and 6 is being presented as a replacement sheet to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet. Figure 4 has been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

The specific change which has been made to Figure 4 is a correction of the illustration of the cross-section profile of retractor 26.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

In the drawings, Figure 4 has been amended to be consistent with the cross-sectional views shown in Figures 3 and 5. The specific change which has been made to Figure 4 is a correction of the illustration of the cross-section profile of retractor 26.

No new matter has been added.

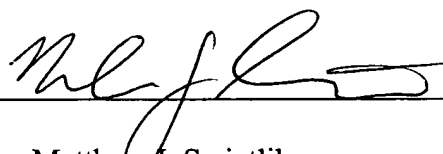
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1/30/2007

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 319-7306
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

By 
Matthew J. Swietlik
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 58,428

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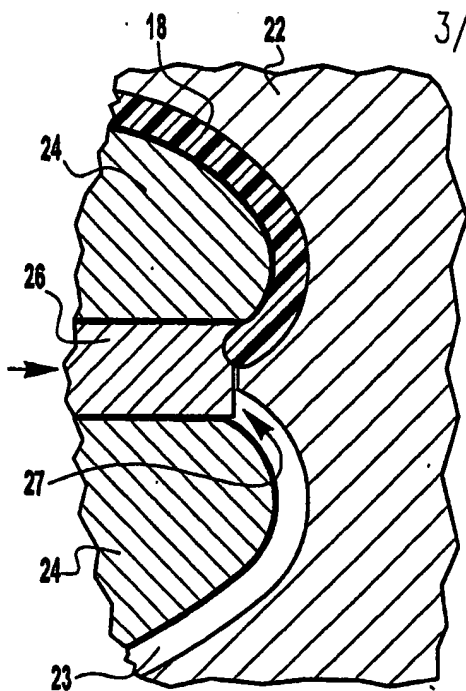


FIG. 3

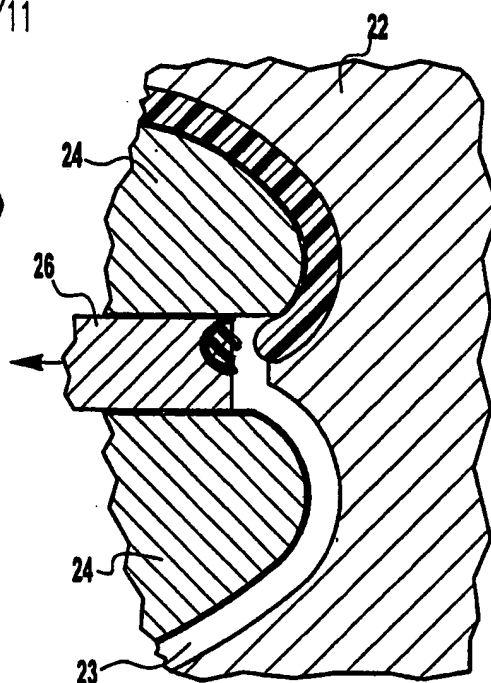


FIG. 4

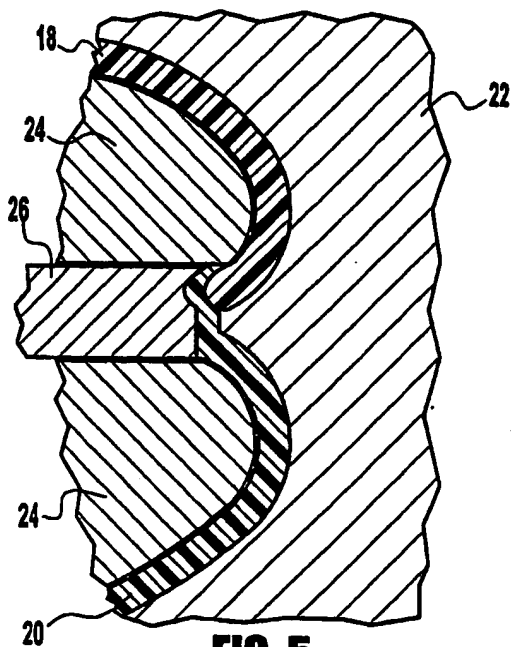


FIG. 5

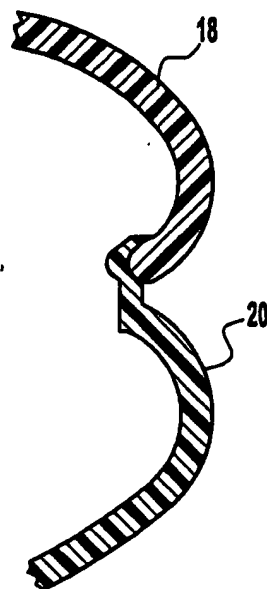


FIG. 6